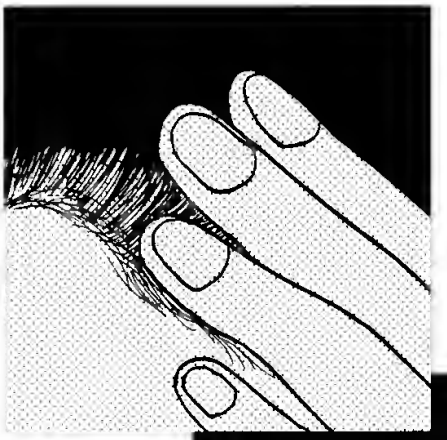
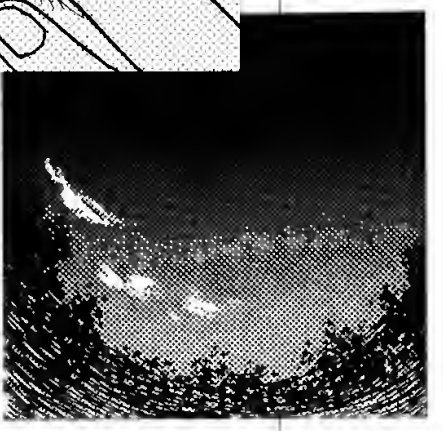
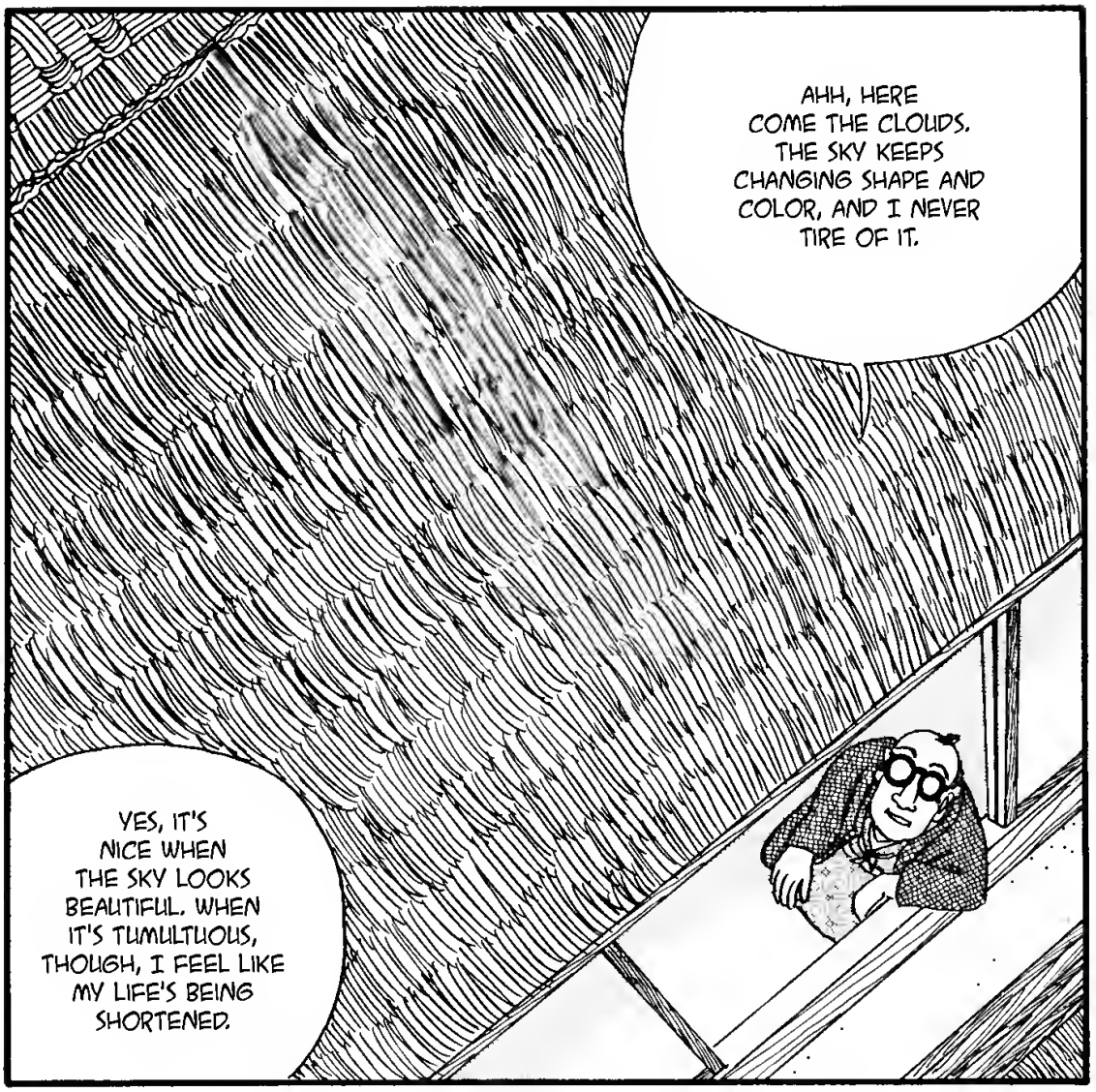
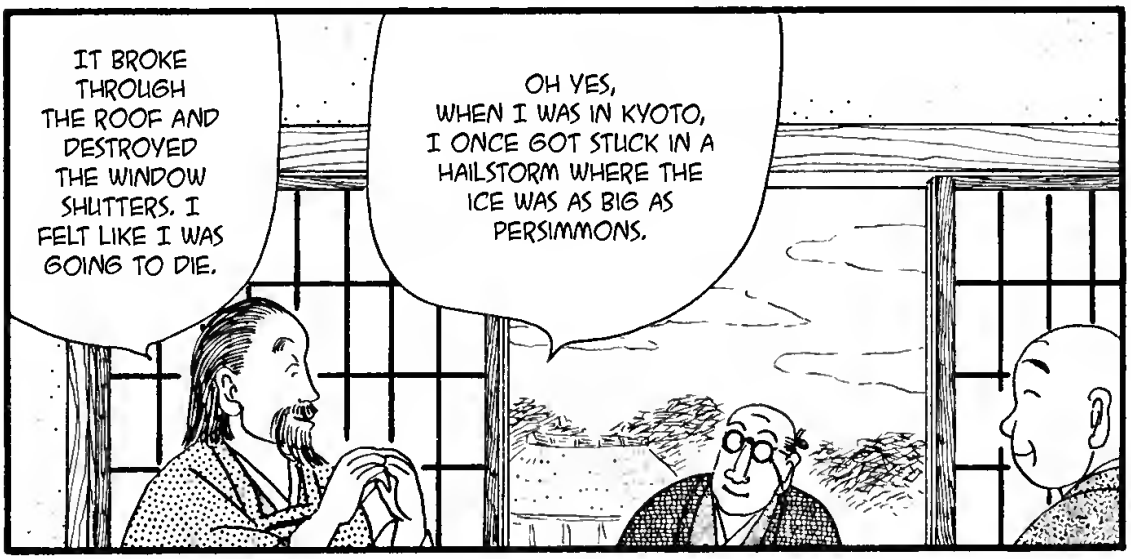
Tale 25 & Tale 26

Two Eerie Tales about a Snake and a Dragon

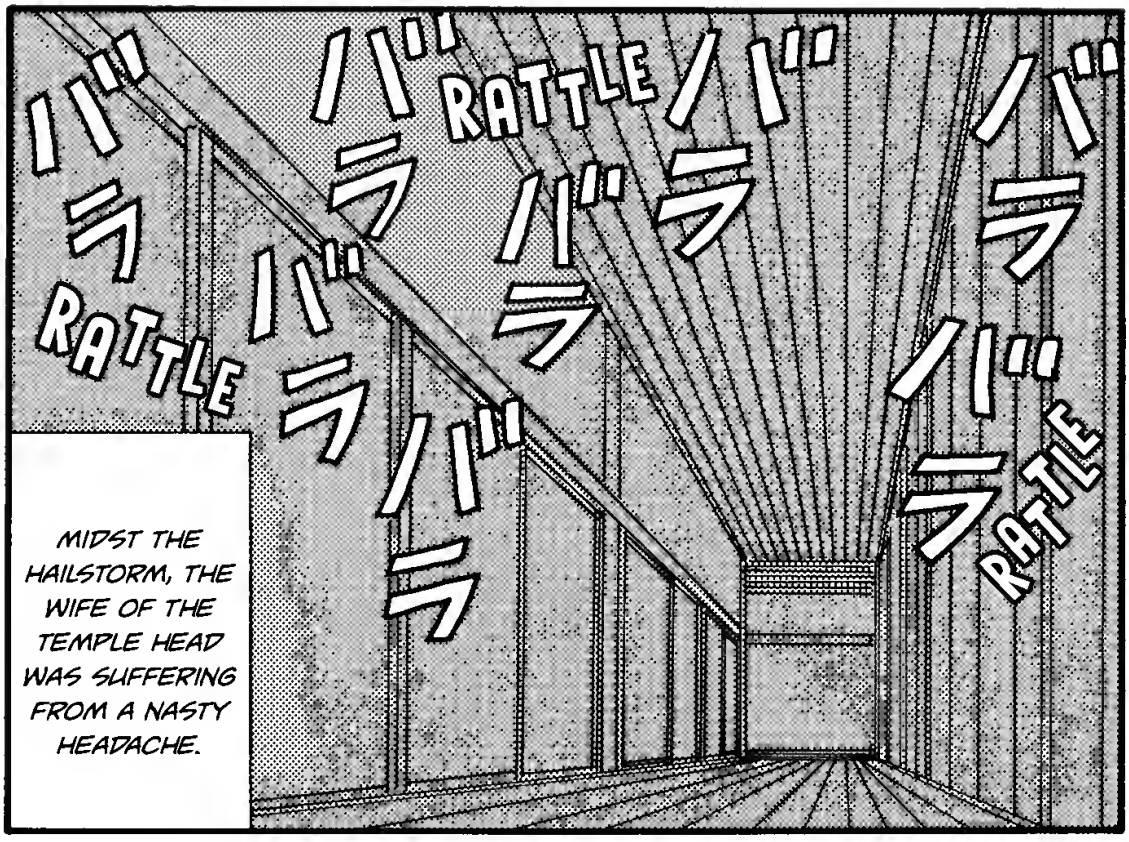


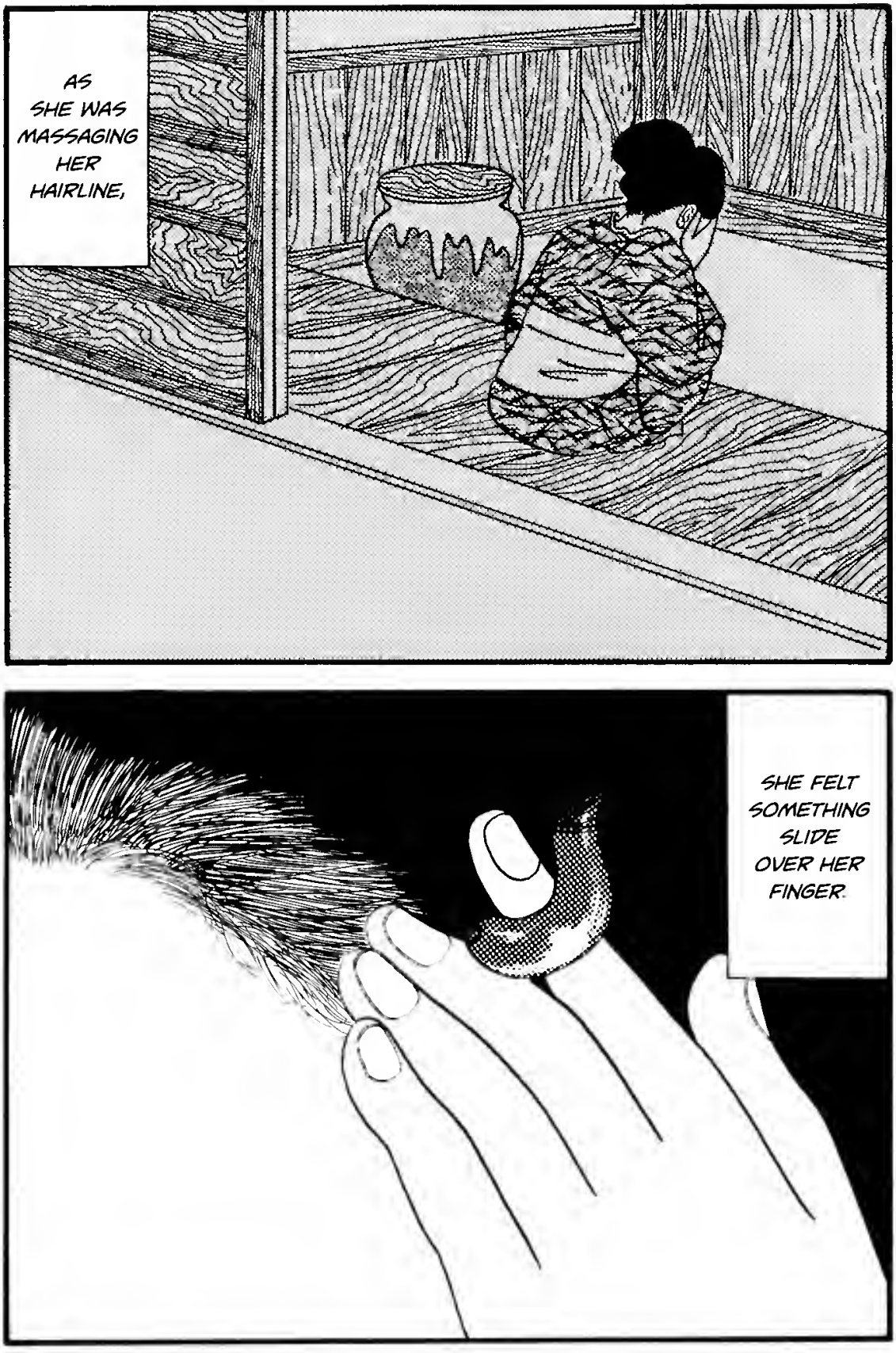



AHH, HERE COME THE CLOUDS. THE SKY KEEPS CHANGING SHAPE AND COLOR, AND I NEVER TIRE OF IT.
YES, IT'S NICE WHEN THE SKY LOOKS BEAUTIFUL. WHEN IT'S TUMULTUOUS, THOUGH, I FEEL LIKE MY LIFE'S BEING SHORTENED.

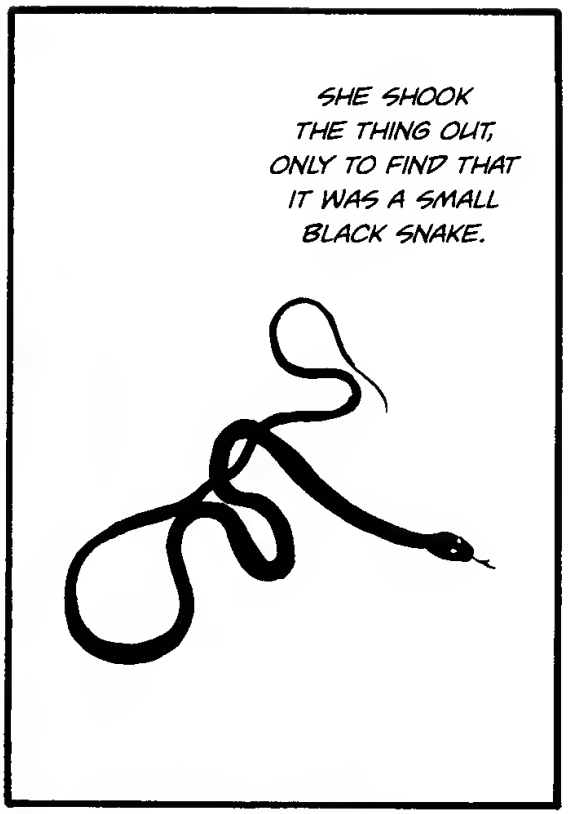

IT BROKE THROUGH THE ROOF AND DESTROYED THE WINDOW SHUTTERS. I FELT LIKE I WAS GOING TO DIE.
OH YES, WHEN I WAS IN KYOTO, I ONCE GOT STUCK IN A HAILSTORM WHERE THE ICE WAS AS BIG AS PERSIMMONS.

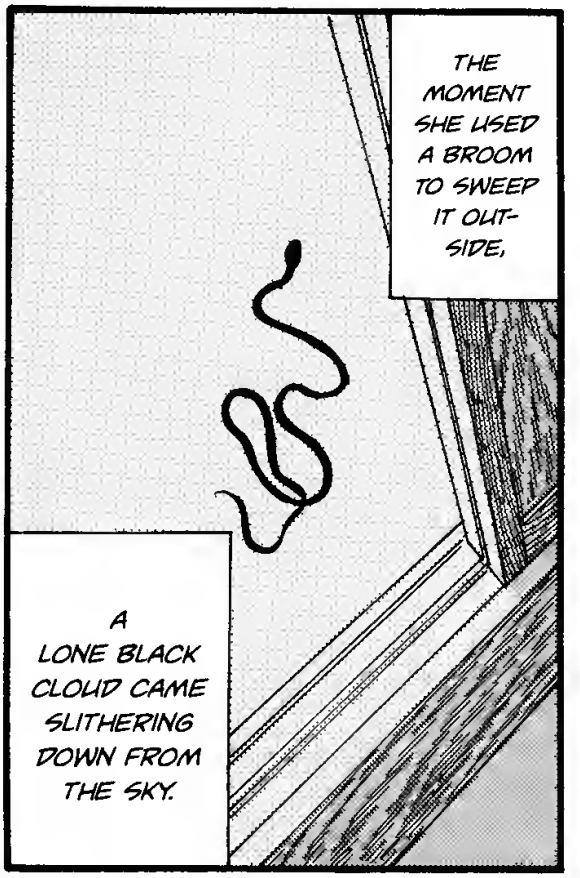
DURING THAT TIME, I HEARD THAT A STRANGE THING HAPPENED AT A NEARBY TEMPLE.


バラバラ RATTLE
MIDST THE HAILSTORM, THE WIFE OF THE TEMPLE HEAD WAS SUFFERING FROM A NASTY HEADACHE.

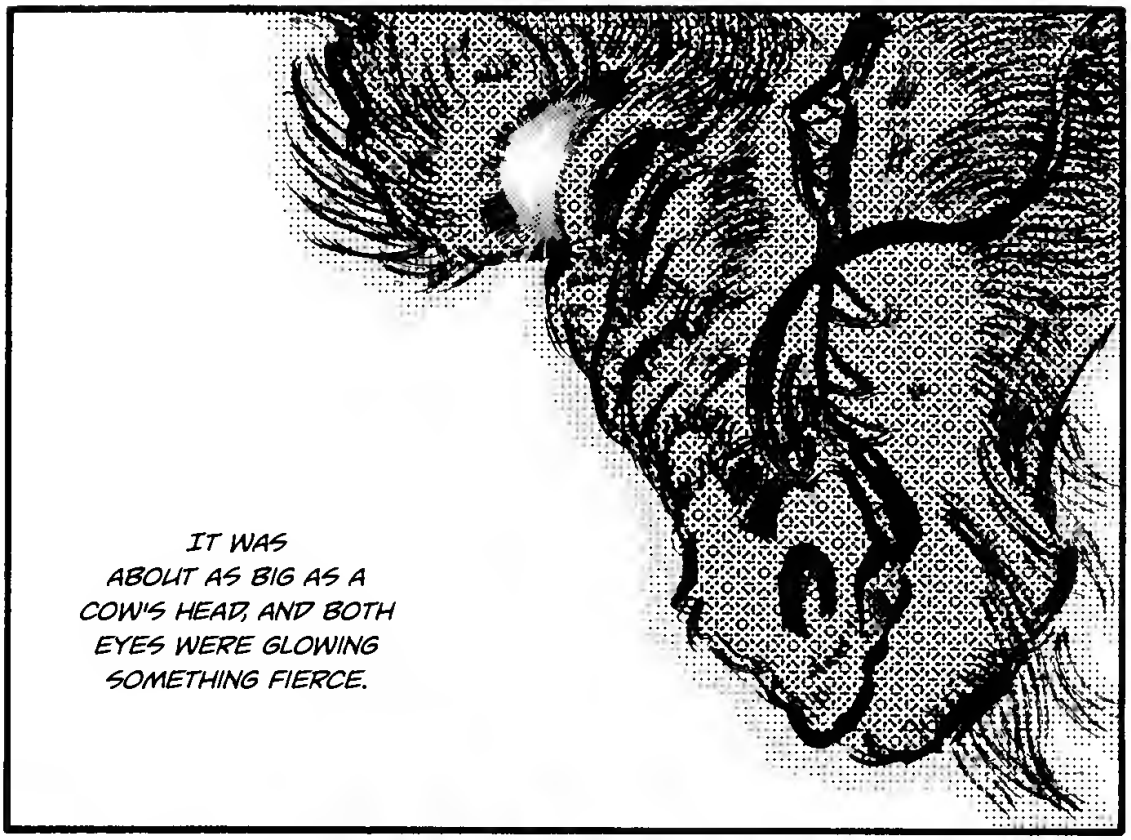

AS SHE WAS MASSAGING HER HAIRLINE,
SHE FELT SOMETHING SLIDE OVER HER FINGER.

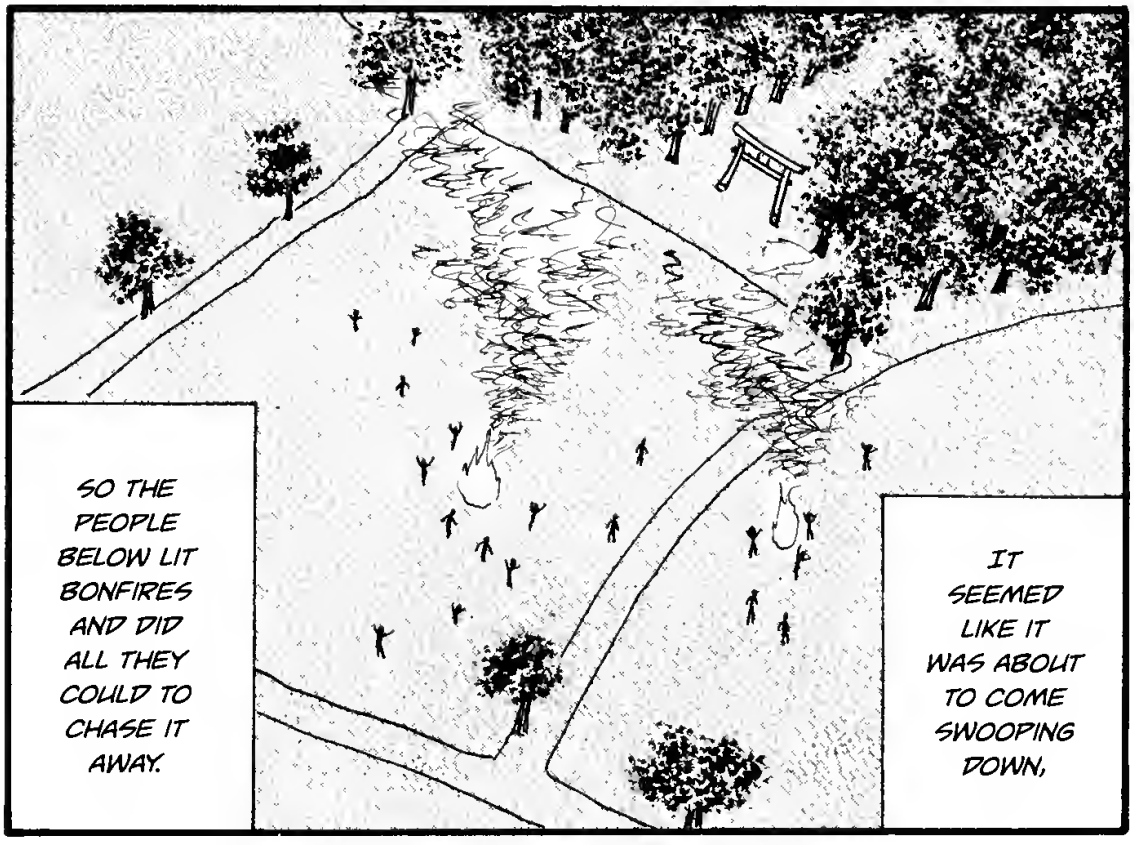
IT PICKED THE SNAKE UP, THEN ROSE BACK INTO THE HEAVENS.
AFTERWARDS, THE HAILSTORM INSTANTLY STOPPED, AND THE WOMAN'S HEADACHE WENT AWAY.

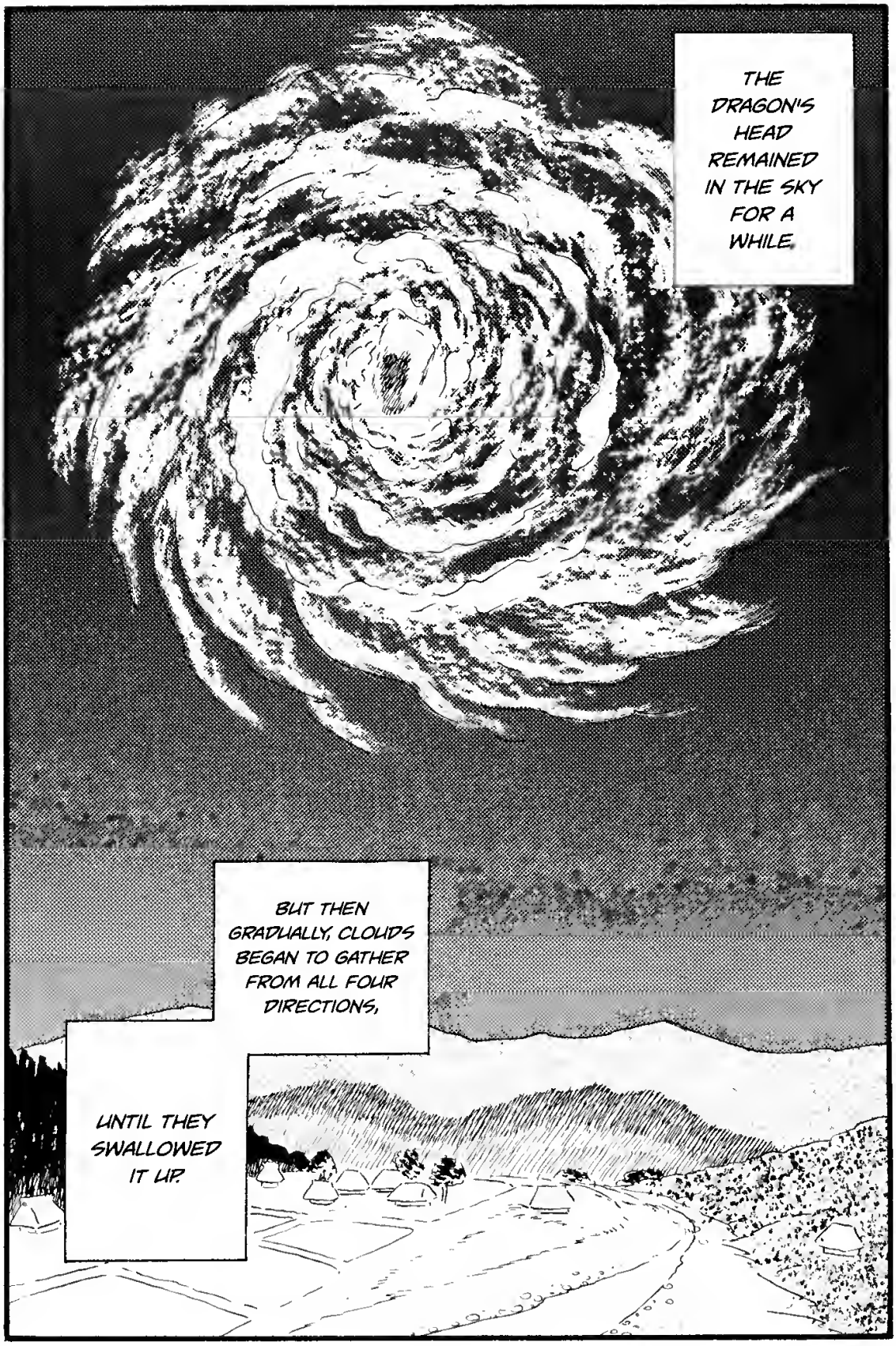

SHE SHOOK THE THING OUT, ONLY TO FIND THAT IT WAS A SMALL BLACK SNAKE.


THE MOMENT SHE USED A BROOM TO SWEEP IT OUT-SIDE,
A LONE BLACK CLOUD CAME SLITHERING DOWN FROM THE SKY.

THIS IS A BIT OF AN OLD TALE, BUT GIVE IT A LISTEN.
STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN DURING GOOD WEATHER TOO, YOU KNOW.
IT HAP-PEN-ED IN SAKATA, IZUMO PROV-INCE.
UNDER A BLINDINGLY BRIGHT BLUE SKY.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, A DRAGON'S HEAD AP-PEARED RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUN.


IT WAS ABOUT AS BIG AS A COW'S HEAD, AND BOTH EYES WERE GLOWING SOMETHING FIERCE.


SO THE PEOPLE BELOW LIT BONFIRES AND DID ALL THEY COULD TO CHASE IT AWAY.
IT SEEMED LIKE IT WAS ABOUT TO COME SWOOPING DOWN,


THE DRAGON'S HEAD REMAINED IN THE SKY FOR A WHILE.
BUT THEN GRADUALLY, CLOUDS BEGAN TO GATHER FROM ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS,
UNTIL THEY SWALLOWED IT UP.